DXCC OR WAZ

SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

August 1983

President: Neil Kaltman, K6SMF □ Vice President: Joe Locascio, K5KT
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Directors: Jim Stevenson, KM6B; Don Bostrom, N6IC; Jim Rafferty, N6RJ; Bob Cobb, W6CN (membership); Mike Hudgens, W6YQ (bulletin)

Next meeting: Thursday, August 11 at 7:30 PM in the DWP Cafeteria, 111 Hope Street.

Al, K6YRA, Brad, W6TJI, and Carl, KJ6F, will have a presentation on Caribbean operations, with a special emphasis on FM0.

Invasion of the computers

They're out there, covering the land like locusts....

By Mike Hudgens, W6YQ

Spinning the dial across 40 meters at sunrise a few Sundays ago, I came across a barrage of fast CW in the novice band. It was far beyond my top speed so I brought it up on the Commodore 64. The amber screen quickly filled with New Testament scripture, prophecies, forewarnings, revelations. It was all there—your classic fire-and-brimstone sermon—at 75 WPM on the 40-meter novice band.

You have to hand it to this computer preacher. His demographics were on the mark. He knew he could attract an audience because the machines were out there. The number of small computers interfaced to amateur transceivers has proliferated in the last three months.

Changes have taken place on our bands-on RTTY, of course, but on CW too. Most of the fast CW contacts I've observed have been more than the rig-and-weather-we-won't-hold-you variety. Computer CW seems to make people loquacious and, more often than not, the conversations are interesting. A conclusion can be drawn from this: CW types are less inhibited on a keyboard than on a keyer. I don't particularly like using a keyboard for CW—there's something immoral about it—but admittedly the keyer is more work. At 41 WPM my wrist turns to glass, cracks appear at 43, and at 45 it shatters.

Even though you're reading CW from the screen, your copying speed will increase. It doesn't take long.

What about DXing? How can a computer help a CW DXer? You still have to dig out the faint ones. Weak-signal CW doesn't process well. Fades, echo, or flutter riddle the characters and you get gibberish. RTTY can make some sense out of such a signal, but for heavy duty DXing you would use

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The CR8 story

It's short and sweet

By Jan Perkins, N6AW

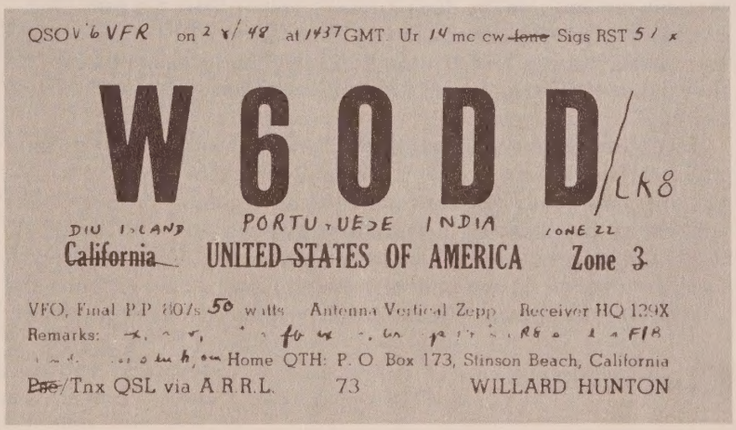
On an August morning in 1948, W1FH was up with the sun and sifting through the signals on 20 CW. The band was alive with chirping BC610s and buzzing homebrew rigs that didn't have quite enough capacitance in the power supply. At 14040 he tuned across a familiar call—W6ODD. Hmmm, wasn't he in Asia somewhere...? The station signed *portable CR8*—holy smokes!

Bill Hunton had said farewell to FI8 land and stopped in Diu on the western side of India. With his trusty vertical Zepp and pair of 807s always good for 30 watts, he was the hottest thing on 20 CW. Chas had the honor of being his first stateside QSO. After five hours of operation, Bill packed up and continued his journey back to California.

During 1956 Joao Serpa operated as CR8AC. Located in Nova Goa City, Goa, he was on most of the year. Like the majority of DX in those days, he was primarily a 20 CW man, although he could put out a few watts on 15 phone.

The next year Raul Fernandez commenced operation as CR8AC. Many had previously worked Raul from the Cape Verde Islands as CR4AL. (Being rare DX was nothing new to him!) Raul's location was Vasco Da Gama, incorrectly listed in some atlases as being in Damao but actually seven miles southwest of Nova Goa City, next to the Goa airport.

Raul often worked a good friend, Gilbert Fournier, HB9QP. In late 1959, Gilbert was traveling through Goa, and Raul arranged


QSO W6VFR on 2 8/48 at 1437 GMT Ur 14 mc cw ~~fone~~ Sigs RST 5 / x

W6ODD/LK8

DIU ISLAND PORTUGUESE INDIA ZONE 22

~~California~~ UNITED ~~STATES~~ OF AMERICA Zone 3

VFO, Final P.P 807s 50 watts Antenna Vertical Zepp Receiver HQ 129X

Remarks: [illegible]

[illegible] Home QTH: P. O Box 173, Stinson Beach, California

~~Pse~~/Tnx QSL via A.R.R.L. 73 WILLARD HUNTON

permission for him to operate. Gilbert put up a 20-meter antenna at the airport and spent several days on the air. He even worked a few of the boys on AM, providing most of the phone contacts that were to come from Goa.

Bill Hunton's operation originally counted as Goa. About 13 years later, W6CUQ looked closely at an atlas and noticed a fair amount of real estate between Goa and Damao-Diu. Seeking a professional opinion, he sent Bill's QSL to Bob White, who examined it and reviewed the DXCC criteria. Thus it came to pass in October 1961 that the countries of Damao and Diu were added to DXCC. W6CUQ went to the top of the Honor Roll.

But, inevitably, forces were in motion that would change the map. In December 1961, India marched into the enclaves of Diu, Damao

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Time to settle down

K5YY says no more expeditions

Dr. San Hutson, K5YY, advises, "At age 40, I now must stop the crazy DXpeditioning game and concentrate on more important family things."

Elected to the DX Hall of Fame this year, San has operated from some 35 countries, but, he says, "Only about 30 of what I would call real attempts at DXpeditioning. I started in the late '69-early '70 time frame with the first one being KS4 Swan Island, the only DXpedition ever allowed there. That was with W4VPD, Enos. All other trips—nine of them—have been alone. A lot of problems have been avoided with that policy. Just look at some of the past DXpeditions to see how easy it is to have disputes over all sorts of things."

He estimates having made almost 90,000 QSOs over the years. "I've usually avoided high numbers in order to give *quality* of QSOs to those who needed CW and low bands. I'd rather work a dozen on 80 as opposed to 100 on 20 SSB, most of which would be flexing muscle and not needing the country at all. I've never liked to ask for funds from individuals and rather thought the foundations were better adapted to deciding these matters, and with fewer persons hurt financially. Northern Cal DX Foundation has helped me on two trips, once to a significant degree."

San's job with the Social Security Administration as a medical consultant allowed him to take more extended trips the last eight years. "The first significant trip was CE0Z in 1973 when President Allende of Chile had a civil war on his hands."

During that period there was a 6 PM curfew. San was detained and taken to the Soccer Stadium, where many were to die before firing squads. Local amateurs helped get San out, however. "I had to abort my CE0X plans, even though I had a license."

His most noteworthy trip, he recalls, was probably D6A and FH8. "I was the *first* to operate from those two DXCC countries. The D6A was really difficult. I almost died. When I got permission from the president of the Comoroes to operate, I only had 10 watts output into half of a driven element of a three-element beam. I still made about 1,500 QSOs on 14 SSB. The illness—105 temperature for four days—went away on the day permission came from the president. I met the French mercenary, Robert Denard, in 1978 on my second trip to the area as D68AF. He had killed the president when he overthrew the government. Having met both was an unusual feeling."

That same year when he was in ST2, he took an ST0 side trip and had another very close call. "I was approached at 2 AM by troops with machine guns. They were more intent on getting me to leave the outpost so they could steal gasoline than they were in killing me. At least, this is what I was told the next morning when the British workers arrived. At the critical moment I had simply grabbed the lead soldier and forced him outside to help me refuel my generator. When he put down the gun I knew I had pulled off my bluff of not being scared. Actually, I was very frightened and had a feeling that went beyond actual description. Many trips I have given simple prayers to just get me back to my family , and I promised 'not to do it again'—an expedition, that is. I really feel I was lucky in many places I went. I was never refused permission to operate on any trip. On a recent trip to 9M6 I was told I could not not obtain a license. Wayne Green couldn't. I was lucky and did get permission after all. Some preliminary letter writing helped, but I cannot tell what that included because it would expose some very close relationships and could be embarrassing in certain ways to those still in a few of these countries from which I've operated. No names or countries shall be mentioned. I think Vince Thompson and others feel the same way."

But, he says, enough is enough. No more trips. "I have two children going to college in about four more years and one in the third grade. I will continue to DX after my new tower goes up. I'm looking at getting back on the air in early '84. I've dreamed of someday having acres of land to try my experiments on low band antennas, but it seems I'm going down in lot size and tower height since I had a 150-foot tower with 6-element Telrexes in 1969. Someday, maybe. My new home is in Paris, Arkansas where I am returning to the general practice of medicine."

San was first licensed in 1958 as K5QHS, "inspired," he says, "by SWLing with an old S38 receiver. I'm always trading and acquiring equipment, especially Collins. I've had literally dozens of S-lines and 75A4 receivers over the years. My main rigs have been Alpha linears along with Collins and Henry amps. I've had most all Yaesu and Kenwood; usually when a new one comes out I buy it for inspection and critique."

He has all countries confirmed in mixed mode, needing only BY to have all on SSB. His total is 338 mixed and 336 phone. He has DXCC #18 on 160 meters and the first from west of the Mississippi.

An honorary member of several DX clubs, he says the crowning event was the CQ DX Hall of Fame award at Visalia last April. "I was really at a loss for words on that one," he recalls.

"But that's enough about me. I want to tell the W6 gang how much I appreciate their influence on my DXing and DXpedition habits. They always seem to come to the top in overall DX accomplishments, and I've said this whenever I've spoken there in California. Back in the late 1950s, '*The*' DXer, the one who always beat out all the rest, was usually a W6. It is sort of sad to see some of the things which have evolved during the past 25 years. The spirit of the DXer and the help he used to give has given way to ego, hatred in some cases, and striving for the almighty QSL card for one of hundreds of awards. I'm not sure it has been in the best interests of DXing.... But then again, I'm not one of the new breed, either."

—**W6YQ**

Club notes

DXers are invited to the annual **W6YA Open House** August 21 at 1 PM. As in get-togethers of previous summers, there will be beer and soft drinks, plus a lot of incredible stories and outrageous claims. Jim McCook's address is 1029 Passiflora Place, Leucadia. To get there, take the I-5 south to the Leucadia Blvd exit (after the La Costa exit). Go east half a mile to Woodley Place and right (south) to the end of the street.

Help wanted for Visalia 1984: a publicity chairman, a program chairman, a ladies' program chairman, and liaisons for the chamber of commerce and accommodations.

Rubber stamps with the SCDXC logo are available for $6.

Gear, callbooks, handbooks, antenna books and other useful items you would like to donate are needed for deserving recipients in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. See Alan, W6RCL.

W6RW's 160-meter talk at the July meeting was well-received and highly informative. Interest in top band has been on the upswing for several years, and activity should increase dramatically as we approach Quiet Sun.

Prizes won at the last meeting included: three DX Edges to **W6TJI**, **N6CGV** and **W6OES**; an MFJ-104 dual display clock to **W6TJI**; an RX-100 noise bridge to **W6OES**; an *Radio Amateur's Handbook* to **K5KT**; an ARRL *Antenna Book* to **WA6POZ**; six *FCC Rulebooks* to **N6SGV**, **W2AIM**, **KG6AR**, **N6ETK** and **K5KT**.

For the record, here are the SCDXC plaques awarded this year at Visalia. DXer of the Year was, of course, **W6RT**. For the 1981 CQWW Phone: single op/all band to **N6AR** (3rd W6); single op/single band to **KM6B** (high W6-21 MHz); single op/single band to **K6QEH (N6AW-op)** (high W6-7 MHz); single op/single band to **ZF2FL**

(N6RJ-op) (million pts 14 MHz); multi-op/single tx to **NC6T** (2 million pt ach); multi-op/multi-tx to **K6RR** (3 million pt ach); single op/all band to **9Y4VT (N6AA-op)** (high world).

For the 1981 CQWW CW: single op/all band **N6AR** (3rd W6); single op/single band **K6EWL** (high W6-21 MHz); multi-op/single tx **NC6T** (million pt ach); multi-op/single tx **N6DHV** (million pt ach); single op/all band **9Y4VT (N6AA-op)** (high world).

For the 1982 ARRL Phone: all-band/kW **KM6B** (2nd W6); 28 MHz/kW **K6SVL** (high W6); all band/200W **W6CN** (2nd W6).

The 1982 ARRL CW: all band/kW **W6TMD** (high SCDXC); 21 MHz/kW **N6DHV** (2nd W6); all band/200W **WA6LFF** (2nd W6).

And, finally, the 1982 SCDXC Summer Sprint: mixed mode/kW **OH0BH (OH2BH op);** phone/kW **W6CN;** CW/kW **N2YQ/6;** CW/200W **N6DHV**.

Computers

Continued from page 1

AMTOR (See p.40, July 1983 *QST* for one of the most comprehensive explanations of AMTOR yet written).

The computer is beneficial in doing tasks. For instance, much of the information in this publication is gathered right off the air using a Commodore 64 or a VIC20, and later edited. This includes various ASCII and RTTY bulletins, fragments of QSOs that contain pertinent items, or even an event, such as a pileup: recently I monitored a big one on 40 with the 64. I had to be off doing something else, and hours later I came in and read the buffer to see who had worked the station and how long the pileup lasted.

This bulletin, rather than being typeset, composed, photographed, printed, addressed, stamped and mailed, could be assembled entirely on the 64 and sent out on ASCII at a scheduled time. For wider distribution, it could be put into various electronic mailboxes around the country.

In other applications, there have been some elaborate contest operations: dupe sheets dispensed with, the logging, duping and QSLing all being done with a computer that's copying the station keyer's *sidetone*.

Most important of all, if you allow a computer into your shack, sooner or later you are going to want something better than the instructions you've been given. You'll write a program. It happens to everybody.

In a Westlink interview, Senator Barry Goldwater said that based on listening to conversations on the bands, amateurs are not interested in advancing the technology, there being almost no incentive to experiment.

Oh, but there is. Not so much in hardware these days—in software. Rather than mounting a switch in an aluminum box, you come up with a series of instructions that will let the computer do the switching. Incentive is born of necessity. More and more of our number are writing programs based on necessity.

What's the point, you say, of an RS232 plug on the back of a new transceiver? Why go to all that trouble just to operate the radio from a keyboard? No reason—unless you could do it through the computer at the office. Call home, work a new one. The point is, when you need it, you'll go to the trouble.

Software is the ticket. There seems to be a sameness evolving with hardware—the computers, interfaces, transceivers—but the writing of instructions is a path relatively untrodden. Learning the language is not all that difficult and, if you know your hardware, you can let your imagination take over.

The preacher on the novice band certainly used his. He did more than connect cables between his computer, interface and transceiver. To run that lengthy sermon with all its artful repetitions, he wrote instructions and thus made known—at least, to me—a few sound ideas about programming a long text. This came out of the necessity to get sheep into his fold. It was the source of his incentive to experiment, and to invent.

DXCC WAZ
SO. CALIF DX CLUB

Bulletin

Published monthly by the Southern California DX Club.

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The CR8 story

Continued from page 1

and Goa, held by Portugal more than four centuries. When the new DXCC lists came out in January 1962, both CR8s were already deleted countries.

So that's the story—short and sweet—of how one August morning 35 years ago a handful of DXers, perhaps two dozen in all, came to work one of the rarest countries on the rolls of DXCC.

(Our thanks to Chas Mellon, W1FH, as well as W1CW, W6FR, K6TX, W6AM, W6RR, W6EE, W6CUQ, the Secretary of the Radio Society of India, and the Civil Administrator of the Goa District for their help in the preparation of this article. W1GKK was asked to provide information about his QSLs from this period but declined.)

DX news

Clipperton: March-April 1984 for sure, according to **FO8DO.** Transportation details are being worked out now.

Jim Smith, VK9NS, will be on **Kermadec** for seven days in November; donations gratefully accepted. If you've noticed him hitting 10 over on 80 meters of late, it's that new three-element bobtail curtain at 90 feet. Jim's been worked on 3504 and 3796 at 11-1230z.

30 meters: good European openings nightly around 04z. **Andre, F3NB,** and several others appear daily with strong signals.

Cris, VK3FY, reports a probable expedition during the CQWW to **Lord Howe**: 10 ops, including a W2, and signing **VK2WU/LH**, or the individual's home call/**LH.** It's sponsored by the Downunder's DXer Contester Club.

VK0GM, Macquarie, is on, says VK3FY.

XV: JT1AO advises that he's being transferred to Vietnam and expects to get a license.

LIDXB says **F6ATQ** and **F6BQY** will be on from Algeria August 4-30, signing **FX0**. They'll be on 10, 15 and 20 CW.

In the same publication, "Early August" is the word for **XU1SS** by **JA1HQG, JA1UT** and company. An August 10 arrival is their latest estimate, and 10, 15 and 20 will be used.

DXNS reports a **Rhodes** operation by **G3OLU**, August 8-19. Look for John on CW at 005 and 015 KHz on all bands (not the new ones), listening up or down 2; and on SSB on the Round Table Net (1915z daily 14175).

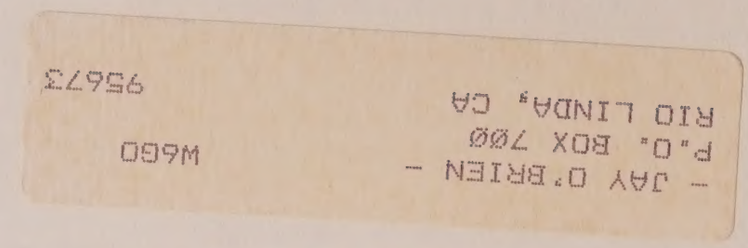
Frank, DL7FT, and **Bahri, DJ0UJ,** are looking for 11th-hour funds for a September operation from **ZA** that would include the WAE. Bahri speaks Albanian, and Frank believes they could get the license. His address: Frank Turek, P.O. Box 1421, D-1000 Berlin 19, FRG.

St. Paul Island expedition set for September 23-October 3.

Activity reports

W6RT: **GJ4/PA3BFM** 14024 0606, **FB8WI** 7008 1349 (July 8); **1A0KM** 14026 0127, **FB8ZQ** 7006 1314 (July 9); **HZ1AB** 21030 1733 (July 10); **GJ4/PA3BFM** 7004 0426 (July 12); **Z21BL** 7003 1454 (July 14); **4K1GDW** 7002 1441 (July 18); **TZ8DC** 7003 0243 (July 19); **W9LNQ/6Y5** 7008 0238 (July 20); **PY0FE** (via PY1BVY) 7006 0342, **TZ8DC** 21020 1447 (July 21); **FR0HPR** 21004 1527 (July 22); **VE2EDK** (Zone 2) 7020 0239 (July 23); **6Y2IA** 7010 0533 (July 24); **TL8ER** 21040 1512 (July 25); **SV0AA** (N2OO) 21043 1437, **PY0FE** 21026 1803 (July 27).

Continued on page 4



Michael Hudgens, W6YQ
10103 Lynrose Street
Temple City, CA 91780

Contest calendar

Aug 13-14	**WAE CW**
Aug 13-14	**SEANET Phone**
Aug 20-21	**SARTG RTTY**
Aug 27-28	**All Asian CW**
Sept 10-11	**WAE Phone**
Sept 18	**CW Sprint**
Sept 17-18	**SAC CW**
Sept 24-25	**SAC SSB**
Sept 25	**SSB Sprint**
Oct 9	**RSGB 21/28-MHz SSB**
Oct 16	**RSGB 21-MHz CW**
Oct 29-30	**CQWW Phone**
Nov 12-13	**WAE RTTY**
Nov 26-27	**CQWW CW**

—W1WY

State of the bands

These dog days are a good time to do the antenna work you have been putting off, especially before the fall contests and the beginning of better propagation.

Ten meter openings are still with us but harder to spot with the reduced activity. The openings are about the same as springtime, only later and with weaker signals. South Africa about 19z and South America until 23z are common. JAs are heard briefly 00-02z. SE Asia at the end of that opening and VK/ZL until sunset are occasionally found. The South Pacific is often in all day if anyone is on.

Fifteen sometimes opens to Europe in the 15-16z range up until 20z. North Africa might show toward the end of the opening for a couple of hours. South Africa and South America are occasionally heard all day and after sunset. Watch for Central Asia about 04z for an hour. JAs at 22-03z and SE Asia about 01z are common.

Twenty will be the mainstay for the next couple of months. South America in the afternoon and Africa around 01z provide good signals. Europeans from 02-06z and Central Asia about 05z have big signals. Long path is still around from 13-16z, with weaker signals. SE Asia about the same time is very strong. JAs are heard 06-15z, with the peak about 09z.

Forty sometimes opens to Central Asia at sunset and to Europe an hour later. The morning LP from 13-14z is often good with weak signals. Big signals come in from JA about 10z.

Eighty to the Pacific just before sunrise has been good. Also to JA at the same time.

—N6AW

Activity reports

Continued from page 3

W6BWG: **VP2KBJ** 14203 0325 (July 1); **BV2B** 14227 1442, **1A0KM** 21295 2250 (July 2); **1A0KM** 14194 0540, **9M2BD** 14195 1446 (July 3); **ZK1CH** 14190 0545 (July 5); **1Z9B** 14226 1543 (July 7); **OH0BH** 14228 0522 (July 8); **5J1LR** 14189 0517 (July 13) **C21BD** 14227 1516 (July 15); **IT9ONV** 14203 0038 (July 16); **1Z9A** 14227 1522 (July 20).

(Deadline for next month: August 25)

N4XX propagation

A, H, L, B, D—Above, High, Low, Below, Disturbed

6	H	14	L	20	H	26	H	1	L
7	A	15	H/L	21	H	27	H	2	H
8	L	16	H	22	H	28	A	3	A
9	L	17	H*	23	H	29	H	4	L
10	H	18	H	24	H	30	H	5	L
11	H	19	H	25	H	31	H		
12	L								
13	L								

*Begins 54-day forecast

Classified

CUSTOMIZED QSLs by W6BA, $19.75 for 1000 plus shipping. No standard forms. We try to print what you want. Black ink on color 110-pound stock. Write for samples. Bill Adams, W6BA; Star Route 2, 29 Palms, CA 92277.

WANTED: 75S3 rcvr with double xtal deck and 200-Hz filter; round emblem preferred. Don, W6AM (213) 424-3459 or 377-4120.

SIGNAL ONE CX-7A with "B" pwr supply; very late model, mint condx with three CW filters and RIT mod: $650. Roger, W6RW (213) 654-3714.

HENRY 2KD (3-400s): $400; B&W RF deck (813s) L1000A: $100; SB300 and SB400: $250. Bill, W6RT (213) 553-5370.

TS120S w/500-Hz CW filter, noise cancelling dynamic mike, Diawa speech processor: $450. Irv, W6GC (213) 545-5970.

BENCHER paddle, black base: $25; TenTec 670 keyer (not iambic): $20; Kenwood SMC-25 speaker-mic: $20; Skytec CW speaker (acoustic filter): $8; Turner 360 mike (good w/TS-120, 130): $10. Mike, W6YQ (213) 445-0700.